



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Ryoji NOYORI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1621

Application No.: 10/594,327

Examiner: R. KEYS

Filed: September 27, 2006

Docket No.: 129542

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING OPTICALLY ACTIVE ALCOHOL

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the December 17, 2010 Office Action, the period for response being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 11, 13, 17, 23, 32, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly having been obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,686,505 to Watanabe et al.

("Watanabe") in view of JP 11-189600 to Ikariya et al. ("Ikariya"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 11 is directed to a process for producing an optically active alcohol comprising placing a metal complex represented by general formula (1) and a ketone compound in a polar solvent and without the presence of a base and stirring the mixture under pressurized hydrogen to hydrogenate the ketone compound. The applied references would not have rendered obvious the claimed subject matter for at least the following reasons.